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Washington High School yearbooks and records, 1940-1987

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Washington High School yearbooks and records MS.000372

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	Washington High School yearbooks and records
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1940-1949
Date [inclusive]	1940-1987
Extent	0.2 Cubic feet 1 box
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation

Washington High School yearbooks and records, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Biographical/Historical Note

Washington High School was established in the early 1920s in El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas. It was preceded by earlier African American schools in the town. In the 1940s, the school, containing grades one through twelve, was too small for the student population. Student and alumni editorials in the yearbooks campaigned for new black schools in the city. In the "Hornet's" spring 1949 edition, Principal Napoleon (N.F.) Jackson announced plans for the scheduled opening of a new high school at Hillsboro and Quaker Streets for the 1949-50 school year. Jackson, who was principal of Washington High School from 1927-1954, also served as president of the Arkansas Teachers Association from 1930-1933.

On September 19, 1949, a new building for Washington High School opened. The older building, located on Columbia Street, became Carver Grammar School. The class of 1969 was the last graduating class of Washington High School before integration. Winston J. Muldrew was the school's last principal.

The Washington High School yearbook, first named the "Bulletin," later became known as the "Hornet." The yearbook was sponsored by the school's English Department and published annually by the senior class. It contained class photos, along with news of students, teachers, and alumni.

The South Arkansas African American Historical Society provided reprints of Washington's yearbooks, dating from 1940-1949. The project was made possible with a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and Black History Advisory Committee (now the Black History Commission of Arkansas).

The original material is housed at the South Arkansas Museum of African American History in El Dorado.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes reprints of yearbooks of Washington High School, El Dorado, Arkansas, dating from 1940-1949.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 12/08/2009

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

South Arkansas African American Historical Association, El Dorado, Arkansas, 2005.

Collection Inventory

1. "Bulletin," 1940

2. "Bulletin," 1941

3. "Bulletin," 1943

4. "Bulletin," 1944

5. "Bulletin," 1945

6. "Hornet," 1946

7. "Hornet," 1947

8. "Hornet," 1949

9. "The Washington High School Era of The City of El Dorado in Union County in The State of Arkansas," Washington High Alumni Association, 1987